

FEBRUARY 2010

# MTA PROJECT UPDATE

## KIRK DIVISION MODERNIZATION

### Kirk Division Bus Facility News

The Maryland Transit Administration cares deeply about the people we serve and the neighborhoods we connect, and that is why a lot of planning is going into the Kirk Division Bus Facility Modernization Project. In Baltimore, public transit opens the door to job markets, medical services and activities essential to every community. MTA is setting the future in motion with our use of hybrid fuel technology, improved business practices and now, an environmentally responsible facility in your neighborhood.

The Kirk Division Bus Facility Modernization will be MTA's first "green" building, incorporating a variety of advanced design features. Green buildings promote energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, and healthier, more comfortable and productive work environments. This facility promises to be an excellent example of how transit can operate in harmony with its surroundings.

Please take a moment to read through this bulletin and familiarize yourself with the progress we have made thus far, including some new technologies that we've already adopted to reduce noise and pollution. Join us at the upcoming community meeting (see page 4) and help us explore the infinite possibilities that result from bringing people together.



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# Moving Towards the Future



## MTA Administrator *Ralign T. Wells*

The MTA has had an historic presence on Kirk Avenue since 1947. Many of your friends, family, and neighbors work for the MTA, which prides itself on

being a respectful community partner. As the MTA plans the future for public transit across the state of Maryland, we understand our responsibility to respect the environment and make sure that our work has a positive impact on all communities.

The Kirk Division Bus Facility Modernization Project is an important part of our agency-wide goal of creating sustainable transportation networks for you and your children. The MTA is pleased to provide you with information and status updates on this project which directly affects your neighborhood. I invite you to read this important information and share it with others.

## MDOT Secretary *Beverley Swaim-Staley*

Transportation has always played a vital role in the progress of neighborhoods throughout Baltimore. There are important improvements planned for the Kirk Division Bus Facility, and the Maryland Department of Transportation is eager to work with you as this project advances. There are many ways for individuals to take part in shaping the transportation and environmental future of your community. It is my hope that you will join with the MTA as they explore the possibilities for this landmark transit project.



*The MTA will present  
an updated preliminary design  
concept to the community for review  
and comments in spring 2010.*

## We're Listening

In response to feedback from past community meetings, the MTA has implemented the following improvements:

- Created an 80-foot buffer between the rear yards of Bartlett Avenue residences and the bus division.
- Initiated "nose in" parking near Bartlett Avenue residences to direct engine noise away from the homes.
- Discontinued the public address system announcements.
- Reduced on-site bus idle time to lower noise and air emissions.
- Retrofitted 69 older buses with exhaust particulate traps to reduce emissions.
- Replaced 40 percent of the Kirk Division bus fleet by assigning 80 late model and new buses to the facility in order to lessen noise and emissions. Twenty-five new diesel electric hybrid buses are coming to the Kirk Division Bus Facility early this year, and the older buses will be retired.

- Phasing out the older buses with air starters. New buses added to the MTA fleet are equipped with electric starters to lower the noise levels.
- Now using ultra-low sulfur, biodiesel fuel to improve air quality.
- Provided off street parking for MTA bus division staff at the former Reese Press property.
- Planted trees on Kirk Division property along Homestead and Bonaparte Avenues as well as installed a green mesh fence screening near the rear yards of Bartlett Avenue residences.



## Design Phase Update

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is pleased to announce that we have entered the design and engineering phase of the Kirk Division Bus Facility Modernization Project. This phase will take approximately two years for completion. The MTA will present an updated preliminary design concept to the community for review and comments in spring 2010. The construction phase of the project is not funded at this time.

### *Project Features*

- Energy-efficient new buildings to replace current structures
- Inside storage of buses
- On-site employee parking to reduce traffic congestion in the community
- Bus cleaning and fueling to be performed inside
- Modern maintenance bays to accommodate articulated and hybrid buses
- Improved delivery of transit service for the northeast Baltimore metropolitan area
- Aesthetically pleasing, modern facility that will enhance the community

### KIRK DIVISION BUS FACILITY PROJECT SITE



## Purchase of the Reese Press Property

The MTA has purchased the Reese Press property located directly across from the Kirk Division Bus Facility and will incorporate this property into the new facility. The Reese Press parcel will include a facility for bus maintenance and repair work as well as employee parking to help reduce parking congestion in the community. The present Kirk Division Bus Facility site will be utilized for inside bus storage and administrative functions.

## Role of the Kirk Division Bus Facility

Approximately 163 buses are stored, operated, and maintained at the Kirk Division Bus Facility. This bus facility supports 14 bus routes, operating in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Some of the major routes include:

Route Number	Weekly Ridership August 2009
3 Line	175,664*
8 Line	295,380*
15 Line	265,479*
19 Line	149,016
36 Line	152,901*

\* Routes 3, 8, 15 and 36 are supported by an additional bus division.



Current operations on site include preventive bus maintenance, inspections, heavy repairs, fueling, washing, administration, operator support facilities, and dispatching.

## Upcoming Meetings

The MTA will continue to work with the community during all stages of this project. A community meeting to update residents on the Kirk Division Bus Facility improvements is scheduled for:

**Wednesday, March 24th**  
**5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Cecil Elementary School**  
**2000 Cecil Avenue**  
**Baltimore, MD 21218**

For more information, please contact  
Ms. Judy Bellamy, Community Liaison,  
at 410-767-1757 or [jbellamy@mta.maryland.gov](mailto:jbellamy@mta.maryland.gov)



## MTA's Design is Green

The new Kirk Division Bus Facility is being designed to meet or exceed the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver requirements set forth by the U.S. Green Building Council for environmentally sustainable construction. To meet the LEED Silver requirements a new building must accumulate 50 or more points from the following categories: Sustainable Site, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Air Quality, Design Innovation, and Regional Priorities.